COMMANDERS DIGEST

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JAN 3 1968

Army, Air Force To Move 35,000 Troops from Europe

Beginning in April, certain U.S. Army and Air Force units in Europe will be redeployed to the United States, the U.S. Commander in Chief, Europe, announced Dec. 20.

The announcement by Gen. Lyman Lemnitzer said planning action is underway and the redeployment has been the subject of consultations in NATO since last Spring. At that time the U.S. proposed to redeploy up to 35,000 military personnel from the Federal Republic of Germany.

The redeployment, involving about 31,000 Army personnel and 3,400 Air Force, will continue over a number of months.

"Forces and aircraft deployed to the United States," the announcement stated, "will be maintained in a high degree of readiness, and equipment will be maintained in the Federal Republic of Germany in sufficient quantity and readiness to insure that the forces and aircraft can be promptly redeployed to Germany.

Major units involved in the redeployment plans are:

• Two brigades of the 24th In-

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JCS Chairman Discusses Progress In Vietnam War in Detroit Speech

"The single most important factor in prolonging the war [in Vietnam] is Hanoi's calculation that there is a reasonable possibility of a change in U.S. policy before the ultimate collapse of the Viet Cong manpower base and infrastructure."

That statement was made by Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, before the Economic Club of Detroit.

PENTAGON MEETING—Col. Daniel (Chappie) James Jr., USAF, visits Deputy Defense Secretary Paul H. Nitze after meeting newsmen at the Pentagon. Col. James, recently returned from duty as Vice Commander, 8th Tactical Fighter Wing in Thailand, also reported to President Johnson before leaving for his new assignment as Vice Commander, 33rd Tactical Fighter Wing, Eglin AFB, Fla.

"I am convinced of four things: (1) We are winning the war in Vietman; (2) I cannot predict when the war will end; (3) although the tide of battle is running against Hanoi, they are not yet convinced that they cannot win, and (4) flowing from item 3, Hanoi is not yet ready to negotiate an end to the war."

Gen. Wheeler said that if we stop bombing:

• The North Vietnamese would be able to put men and supplies into the south at lower cost.

• The material resources available to them would be increased, which would enable them to support more men in combat in the south or make life in the north easier, or both.

• It would be a lot easier for them to prolong the war in hopes of a change in U.S. policy.

"Therefore," he explained, "we cannot stop the bombing of North Vietnam until we have some indication—some decent hope — that the other side intends to move toward peace, rather than merely to conduct a war on more advantageous terms."

The general said the United States has been concerned about Vietnam for many years.

He said that late in 1964 the fabric of South Vietnamese society was coming apart at the seams—that throughout South Vietnam communist forces had seized the initiative. By Febru-

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New Courts-Martial Manual Proposed

A new Manual for Courts-Martial has been proposed by the Judge Advocate Generals of the Army, Navy and Air Force.

An effective date of July 1, 1968, is proposed for the new manual, which has been formally approved by the services and DOD. It has been sent to the Bureau of the Budget for final staffing and promulgation as an Executive Order.

Following are the most significant policy changes in the proposed manual:

• More liberal rules are provided for detail of law officers and court members from armed forces other than that of the accused.

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Washington Memos

FOR THE THIRD successive year, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Harold K. Johnson is spending the holiday season with troops in the field in Southeast Asia. This is the general's ninth visit to SEA. He was scheduled to return to Washington during the first week in January.

NUCLEAR POWERED ATTACK submarine USS Lapon has been commissioned at Newport News, Va. Named for scorpion fish found in Pacific, 292-foot long Lapon is armed with submarine rockets and 21-inch torpedoes.

STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND personnel officials reported "significant improvements in airman promotions in FY68 with FY68 authorization increasing 62.1 to 64.5 percent. SAC said increase translated into 12,000 more spaces for NCOs.

ARMY AVIATION MATERIEL Command has announced procurement action totalling $17.4 million to increase by 30 number of CH-54A heavy lift "Flying Crane" helicopters in Army supply system. Contract went to Sikorsky Aircraft Div., United Aircraft Corp., Stratford, Conn.

BOMBING NAVIGATION SYSTEMS and flight control subsystems costing $12.5 million are to be built for Navy's new RA-5C Vigilante aircraft by North American Rockwell Corporation's Autonetics Division. Carrier-based plane has seen extensive service in Southeast Asia.

HIGHEST AWARD GIVEN to a civilian organization by Air Force has been presented to Lubbock, Tex., Chamber of Commerce in behalf of Reese AFB, Tex. Air Force Scroll of Appreciation was presented by Lt. Gen. Sam Maddux Jr., Air Training Command commander. Accepting for Chamber was Dr. O. Brandon Hull, president.

AIR FORCE CAPT. Jackson S. Simpson has been named recipient of Brig. Gen. Mervin E. Gross Award. Award recognizes outstanding scholastic achievement while attending Air University's Air Force Institute of Technology as graduate resident student. Capt. Simpson will report to Pacific Air Forces for new assignment.

NUCLEAR POWERED attack submarine USS Haddock has been commissioned at Pascagoula, Miss. The 278-foot long boat carries submarine rockets and torpedoes. First Haddock was World War II submarine which made 13 war patrols.

FEDERAL NURSING Service Award for this year has been won by Maj. Beverly A. K. Glor, ANC. Her winning essay was on "Falciparum Malaria in Vietnam: Clinical Manifestations and Nursing Care Requirements." Selection board considered essay outstanding in its report on an exploratory study done in Vietnam where she cared for malarious patients. Maj. Glor, of Buffalo, N. Y., has been in Nurse Corps since 1961.

ARMY TRANSPORTATION School, Ft. Eustis, Va., has acquired six digital marine radar simulators for use in training Army navigators. Developed by General Precision Systems, these computerized trainers—known as Collision Avoidance Radar Trainer—are capable of simulating exact replica of any programmed coastline, river or harbor and presents students with moving radar picture as he would see and use it if aboard ship.

THREE NAVY PHYSICIANS honored at 74th Annual Meeting of Association of Military Surgeons. Capt. James R. Kingston received Gorgas Medal for contributions in preventive medicine. Capt. Gustave T. Anerson received James Clarke White Award for helping develop silicone preparation to reduce immersion foot casualties in Vietnam. Sustaining Membership Award went to Cdr. Charles E. Brodine for his work in solving problem of supplying blood reserve for military hospitals in Vietnam.

STUDY AT NAVAL Radiological Defense Laboratory, San Francisco, reveals small radioactive particules adhering to human skin can produce ulcers which may fail to heal, but radiological biologist John Krebs says radiation must hit certain minimum area of skin to produce ulcers. If irradiated skin area is too small, ulcers will not occur, no matter how large the radiation dose.

NEW MOS FOR all command sergeants major has been authorized by Army. They will be reclassified in primary MOS OOZ upon receiving Department of the Army authority. Same applies to those in enlisted senior position in battalion size units or higher.

ENLISTED PERSONNEL SOUGHT by Air Force to volunteer for aide duty with general officers. Air Force is looking for grades E-6 and below in all AFSCs except those listed as critical Southeast Asia skills. "Travel, promotion and variety of duties are among aspects of an unusually rewarding career opportunity for enlisted airmen," Air Force Military Personnel Center said in its announcement. Vacancies include openings in such places as Oslo, Norway; Stuttgart, Germany; Naples, Italy; Honolulu, Hawaii; Saigon, Vietnam. Billets to be filled in U.S. include Randolph AFB, Tex. and Washington, D.C., area.

NAVY'S QUICKTRANS contract cargo airlift system will switch to palletized operation by July 1968 in an effort to modernize airfreight handling. QUICKTRANS provides fast logistic service of high priority items by operating contract airlift into 21 air freight terminals.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Gen. Wheeler's Vietnam Speech

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ary 1965 the situation was desperate. This is when the United States began bombing North Vietnam and "probably saved South Vietnam from collapse.

"Nevertheless, the communists could see that victory was still within their grasp. They rapidly stepped up the infiltration of troops from the north in an attempt at a quick victory before American military power could stop them. From prisoners and captured documents we have learned that they hoped to cut South Vietnam in two by the end of the summer of 1965. The prompt arrival of U.S. troops thwarted that objective—as witness the decisive military actions in the battles of Plei Me and Ia Drang Valley."

After losing ground and battles during 1966 and 1967, said the general, "the North Vietnamese once again had to lower their sights. Now their objective became not a military victory, but war prolongation—part of an effort to wear down American will to continue. They had learned that their main force units were unable to stand up to the mobility and firepower of U.S. and allied forces. They saw in late 1966 and early 1967 that we were beginning to destroy their key base areas which had been inviolate sanctuaries for 20 years.

"To stem the erosion of the Viet Cong's power base, the communists have sought to divert allied forces from the heartlands of South Vietnam to the border areas. . . . In the process, they sought to increase the attrition on U.S. forces and, if possible, seriously undermine support of the war on the home front by annihilating a battalion or two of our forces in a miniature re-enactment of Dien Bein Phu.

"This new communist strategy was responsible for the heavy fighting in the DMZ area this summer—and more recently the actions along the western boundaries of South Vietnam—such as Loc Ninh and Dak To."

Gen. Wheeler also cited these significant facts:

"First, communist strategy has not thwarted steady progress in revolutionary development. In fact, that program is gathering momentum.

"Second, they have not achieved even a miniature Dien Bien Phu—as a matter of fact, they have not scored a significant military success in at least eighteen months.

"Third, this has been for them an extremely costly strategy. While they may consider it the best option open to them, it is not an ultimate 'win' strategy."

U.S. to Redeploy 35,000 Troops from Europe

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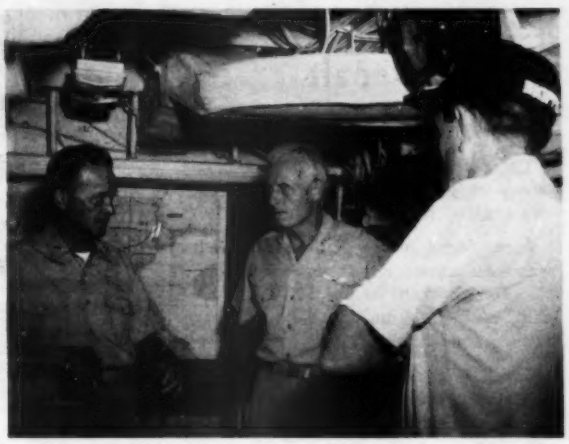
fantry Div. and appropriately associated units which will move to Fort Riley, Kan.

- The 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, which will be based at Fort Lewis, Wash.
- Three squadrons of the 49th Tactical Fighter Wing, to Holloman AFB, N.M.
- The 417th Tactical Fighter Sq., which will move to Mountain Home AFB, Idaho.



ASW DISCUSSION—RAdm. Burton H. Shupper (left), Commander, Anti-Submarine Warfare Group 5, and Capt. Creighton W. Cook (right), Commanding Officer of the aircraft carrier USS Kearsarge, discuss ASW operations in the Gulf of Tonkin with VAdm. William F. Bringle, Commander, U.S. Seventh Fleet, in the Kearsarge's War Room.

New Courts-Martial Manual

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- Procedure for processing requests for individual military counsel is clarified and simplified. The manual makes it clear that if a counsel is requested who is not a member of the command of the convening authority, the determination of the availability of the requested counsel is made by the commanding officer or head of the organization, activity, or agency with which that counsel is on duty.
- A more liberal rule is provided in regard to previous convictions which may be considered by court members in determining appropriate sentence. This revision removes the current enlistment limitation and permits consideration of previous convictions within a six-year period.
- Sentences to suspension from rank, command and duty would no longer be authorized punishments.
- The values of $20 and $50, upon which many maximum punishments are based in the 1951 manual, are changed to $50 and $100, respectively. Except for arson, dishonorable discharge and confinement for more than a year are limited to those cases involving more than $100.
- A less stringent rule is provided concerning corroboration required to establish admissibility of a confession or admission. The new rule would permit introduction of a confession when independent evidence is introduced which raises an inference of the truth of statements made.
- Provision is made for the admissibility of written translations of machine, electronic and coded official records. Without this, it is necessary to call an expert witness in every case involving these records to translate them for the court.

Reconnaissance Version Of F-111A Aircraft Enters Flight Testing

The fourth version of the variable sweep-wing F-111 aircraft, RF-111A has entered flight testing.

First flight of the Air Force's new reconnaissance aircraft was made Dec. 17. Development of the RF-111A began April 1966 at the General Dynamics/Fort Worth, Tex., plant.

The RF-111A will have all the capabilities of other modern reconnaissance aircraft, plus all additional capabilities of the basic F-111.

Other versions of the F-111 now in flight test status include 32 F-111A Air Force tactical fighters, four Navy F-111B fleet air defense fighters, and the prototype FB-111A strategic bomber.

The RF-111A looks the same as the F-111A fighter-bomber assigned to the Tactical Air Command.

Most of the sensors in the RF-111A are proven hardware from other Air Force and Navy reconnaissance programs. The sensors are operated through a specially-designed digital computer reconnaissance control system, with capability to test the sensors and cameras in flight or on the ground.

Navy Cuts Delivery Time On Five-Inch Gun Mounts

A new tractor-trailer developed to carry Navy's oversized five-inch gun mounts from ordnance stations to ships is reducing delivery time.

In one case, Navy said, guns refurbished at Naval Ordnance Station, Louisville, Ky., are carried to Boston Naval Shipyard in seven days. By rail, the way the guns used to be shipped, it took 21 days.

Trailers make the trip fast because they take more direct routes. Navy also said the trailers eliminate problems encountered with rail shipment because of excess size and weight.

TANK COMPLETES TEST—Army's new Sheridan Weapon System, M551, demonstrates its agility in a Kentucky stream during confirmatory testing at Fort Knox.

Army Completes Confirmatory Tests Of Sheridan M551 Weapon System

Confirmatory testing of Army's new Sheridan Weapon System, M551, has been completed by the U.S. Army Armor and Engineer Board at Ft. Knox, Ky. Results of the test are now being evaluated.

Trials of the lightly-armored, heavily-gunned combat vehicle began in December 1966 with delivery of five early production models.

Objectives of the tests were to insure that deficiencies noted during engineering and service tests had been corrected in production models and to detect any new deficiencies that might have resulted in transition into production quantities. During the tests, the vehicles were operated over approximately 5,000 miles of cross-country, highway and secondary roads. Armament evaluation included firing 120 Shillelagh missiles and 800 rounds of 152mm conventional ammunition as well as the tank's 7.62mm and .50-caliber machine guns and the grenade launching system.

The M551 is air transportable and includes an integral flotation system for swimming and special vision equipment for night fighting.

The M551 is intended for use in armored reconnaissance, airborne assault and in combined arms operations.

Army Gives Statistics On Small Arms Loss Rate

The need for safeguarding small arms has been reemphasized by the United States Continental Army Command.

Primary cause of lost firearms, it was explained, is due to individual carelessness and neglect. During the past fiscal year 276 small arms were lost or stolen and only 64 recovered.

Nearly half of the loss was attributed to inadequate inventories of arms rooms and to unlocked or unattended arms rooms. Many were lost during training exercises.

It is expensive for the man who has to pay for a lost weapon. A .45 caliber pistol is valued at $57; an M-1 rifle, $94; an M-16 rifle, $112, and an M-14 rifle, $122.

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